

January 21, 2022

VIA ECFS

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street, NE
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Notice of Ex Parte Presentation

WC Docket No. 17-84, *Accelerating Wireline Broadband Deployment by
Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment*

WC Docket No. 19-126, *Rural Digital Opportunity Fund*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Daniel Gonzalez and the undersigned of Charter Communications, Inc. (“Charter”) met on January 20, 2022, via videoconference with Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel and Ramesh Nagarajan, Legal Advisor, to discuss the above-referenced proceedings.

During the meeting, Charter discussed its role in continually, annually expanding its network to unserved areas, with approximately one-third of that new build consistently in rural areas. As Charter has begun deploying broadband through RDOF, the company has experienced significant pole delays. Some pole owners are delaying negotiating new agreements, refusing to process permits, and creating artificial limits. We have very few options when faced with such delays, as complaints and lawsuits are adjudicated too slowly.

With billions of dollars on the line with RDOF, the American Rescue Plan Act, and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Charter urged the FCC to take a leadership role in paving the way for faster access to poles. Toward this end, the FCC was encouraged to move forward on the NCTA pole petition, including making clear that it will expeditiously handle all pole access complaints related to rural broadband buildouts through its Accelerated Docket. The FCC was also encouraged, through action on the petition, to clarify that pole owners must share proportionately in the cost of replacing poles in order to address another major source of delay.

Please direct any questions regarding the foregoing to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Catherine Bohigian

Catherine Bohigian
Executive Vice President
Government Affairs

cc: The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel
Ramesh Nagarajan